

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 4th September 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. D. Stock
Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 26th June 2001

Mr. Meischke proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Knight seconded the motion, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock were in favour.

3 Matters arising

- **Grant from Groundwork Trust**

We have now received Groundwork Trust's grant of £6,000 towards the resurfacing of the MPPA.

- **Six-monthly check**

The six-monthly check was carried-out on 27th June 2001.

- **Annual safety inspections**

All safety inspections have now been carried-out (i.e. electrical, gas and fire equipment) without any problems.

4 MPPA

The problem with the slippery surface of the MPPA has now been resolved. Doe Sport omitted to inform us that newly-painted surfaces tend to be slippery until they wear in. Mr. Knight said that the surface was almost soapy sometimes; which is due to detergents that are used in the paint.

5 Additional Play equipment

Mrs. Davies has submitted an application to EHDC for a grant of £6,250, which is equal to the amount already raised.

Mr. Poulton said that he would be attending an EHDC meeting on the 13th September during which our application will be decided.

6 Vandalism

The Community Hall, MPPA and sportsfield have been subjected to numerous acts of vandalism throughout the school summer holidays. These included extensive damage to windows (requiring seven to be replaced) and graffiti on the walls, setting light to the cricket pitch and pushing the large grass-roller down the slope into the MPPA causing damage to the kicker boards and fence supports. In addition, there was also vandalism in other areas of the village such as Watton Green.

Mr. Poulton read out a letter he had drafted to the Police Authority. Amendments were made to the letter by the Trustees and it was agreed that Denis Filer (as our representative on Police Authority) be given a copy for his comments. **Action: N. Poulton**

Recommendation:

The Parish Council write a strong letter of complaint to the Chief Superintendent of the Hertfordshire Police Authority with a copy to Oliver Heald MP and Brian Hammond.

7 Summer Play Scheme

The Summer Play Scheme was fraught with problems due to vandalism from the threatening behaviour of a particular youngster. It was agreed by the Trustees that despite the problems, the scheme had been a success and that the trouble that occurred had not been the fault of the Play Scheme Leaders.

Recommendation:

The Parish Council writes to Miss T. Andrews (at EHDC) returning the cheque for the £100 deposit and thanking her for running the Play Scheme.

8 Register check and annual return for year ended 31st March 2001 for Charity Commission

Mr. Poulton said that he had completed the annual return forms, which the Trustees checked.

Recommendation

The annual return forms to be sent to the Charity Commission as requested.

9 Security

Options for improving security at the Community Hall were discussed. It was agreed to invite the Crime Prevention Officer at Hertford Police Station to attend the meeting of the Community Hall Trustees to be held on 11th December 2001.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Allsop

10 Main Hall flooring

Following the Parish Council meeting in July, Mr. Stock and Mr. Meischke inspected the playing surface in the Main Hall. Subsequently, Mr. Meischke spoke to Christine Bewley (the Cleaner) and agreed a course of action. Mr. Stock said that although the condition of the flooring improved for a time, the problem is reoccurring. Mr. Meischke said that the soft carpet-type brush that Mrs. Bewley is using to sweep the floor is acting as a polisher.

Mr. Meischke to ask Mrs Bewley to purchase a suitable traditional soft brush for sweeping the floor. Because Mrs. Bewley is not happy with the mop heads that have been purchased for her, it was agreed to ask her to also purchase a suitable mop head.

Action: J. Meischke

11 Community Hall and sportsfield sign in High Street

Mr. Meischke said that the new sign in the High Street pointing to the Community Hall is one-sided only and has been badly sited and is not very visible from the road. Mr. Poulton said the he would speak to the EH Highways Partnership and ask for a new double-sided sign to be ordered and sited with the existing toilet sign in the High Street.

Action: N. Poulton

12 Any other business

- **Seating in the Parish Council room**

Mr. Poulton said that new seating for the Parish Council room would cost a minimum of £250. An alternative option would be to purchase cushions for the existing seats.

Recommendation:

The Parish Council purchase cushions for the existing seats.

Mr. Knight left the meeting at 8.17 pm.

- **Seats on sportsfield**

Mr. Stock reported that the Jack Turner memorial seat on the sportsfield is only secured to the ground by two of its legs only and could therefore be easily wrenched out. It was agreed that because the seat had not been donated to the Parish Council it is not our responsibility.

The seat recently installed by Mrs. Freeman, which is to be donated to the Parish Council, requires additional brackets to secure it to the ground.

Recommendation:

When the Parish Council takes over the ownership of the seat we install the additional brackets as required.

- **The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.**

- **The date for the next Community Hall Trustees meeting is Tuesday 11th December 2001 at 7.30 p.m.**